



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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### **Hawai'i Department of Health recommends all vaccinated adults receive a booster**

*Expanded eligibility follows new CDC recommendations*

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) is adopting stronger guidelines from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on COVID-19 booster vaccinations.

Effective immediately, all adults age 18 and older who completed their primary mRNA vaccinations of Pfizer or Moderna at least six months ago **should** receive a single COVID-19 booster dose.

Boosters are still recommended for anyone who received Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine more than two months ago.

“This guidance is clear—all fully vaccinated adults should get a booster when it is available to them,” said Health Director Dr. Elizabeth Char, FACEP. “While the Omicron variant has not yet been detected in Hawai'i, the best thing you can do protect yourself and your family is to get vaccinated, wear a mask, avoid large gatherings and get tested for COVID-19 if you feel sick.”

The recent emergence of the Omicron variant underscores the importance of vaccination and boosters. According to the CDC, strong immunity, such as that provided by a booster, will likely prevent severe illness. Individuals who received a booster should continue practice other mitigation measures, such as wearing a mask, avoiding large gatherings and staying home from work and getting tested for COVID-19 if they feel sick.

Information on where vaccines are available can be found at <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine/>.

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